



Tuesday, January 2, 2007
For more information contact:
Charla Haley
Public Information Specialist
(801) 538-6710

News Advisory

Pandemic Flu Task Force to Address Management of Influenza Vaccine During a Pandemic and Ways to Keep the Flu From Spreading

- What:** The Governor's Task Force for Pandemic Influenza Preparation will discuss two key pandemic preparedness issues and establish recommendations for the Governor. Task force members will address vaccine-related preparedness planning and what steps might be required during a pandemic to reduce the spread of the illness.
- Why:** Influenza vaccine is the most effective tool for preventing complications of influenza. In the case of a pandemic, once the influenza strain is identified, a vaccine probably wouldn't be available for at least four to six months. Once the vaccine is produced, using it appropriately and achieving high coverage levels among priority groups will be critical to minimizing the impact of the outbreak. In addition, consideration must be made for steps to slow the spread of pandemic influenza, including voluntary isolation or quarantine, school closures and event cancellations. The Task Force brings together various community leaders, as well as those with expertise in the areas of health care, business, elected officials, faith-based organizations, public safety and public health.
- Who:** Linda Abel, BSN, MPA
Immunization Program Manager, Utah Department of Health
- Dr. Robert Rolfs
State Epidemiologist, Utah Department of Health
- When:** Thursday, January 4, 2007, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
***** For the broadcast media and other interested parties, due to room capacity limitations, we will provide an interview opportunity directly following the meeting at 10:30 a.m.*****
- Where:** Radisson Downtown Hotel
Wasatch Room
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City

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